

DNRC Budget Changes

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 1/29/07
HB 2

1) Submitted by the Governor's office at the December 15, 2006 deadline.

NP 2315 – Restoration and Enhancement FTE

The executive requests 1.00 FTE and \$75,000 in state special revenue each year of the biennium for a state restoration coordinator. The FTE will work with all natural resource agencies, MDOT, local governments, and the public to maximize the state's substantial, ongoing investment in restoration, remediation, and infrastructure projects. The coordinator will act as interagency liaison to identify areas of potential cost savings, enhanced collaboration, joint projects, and planning. The decision package includes \$100,000 per year of one-time-only state special revenue for contracted services for the initial planning and data collection/coordination efforts.

Questions asked by the LFD with answers provided by DNRC staff.

1 - FTE - what type of background would this FTE have?

This position will be responsible for the overall development and administration of the Montana Restoration Program. The staff person should have extensive knowledge and experience of natural resources management, financial management (budgeting, grant agreements and management, etc.); existing natural resource restoration programs; existing and potential sources of natural resource program funding; public administration; program management; legislative relations; contract administration principles; claims management and economic issues related to resource management.

2- IF the FTE is to coordinate funding and reclamation work among agencies, why is the FTE located in CARDD and not the Director's Office?

Proper location of staff for this program was discussed at length. Although there are several options, it was decided to locate the program and staff in the Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) of DNRC. The decision to locate the program in CARDD was based on the quality of management of existing programs the division administers, staff expertise and experience and support that currently exists in CARDD. CARDD staff manage 11 grant programs totally over \$12 million each biennium and 5 loan programs with an average of \$40 to \$60 million being loan out to private and public entities per biennium. The division manages over 1000 active financial contracts. Plus CARDD has close working relationships with a number of natural resource organizations who are active in resource conservation and restoration.

Another consideration was the fact the division houses the State Regional Water Coordinator which is a position that works with all state agencies, public and private entities involved with regional water projects. The division personnel already have expertise and experience in managing a state coordinated position and program.

3- Describe the data collection effort that needs to be completed.

There are two levels of data collection. The first would be in support of the interagency database and gathering all the agency finance data.

The second would be when a restoration project is identified, the coordinator would identify and contact agencies and private entities that had a part in the restoration effort. The agencies would then be asked to submit the baseline data to plan and implement the project.

4- What type of work will be contracted out? Is this the data gathering ? A new database - what?

The work will initially be development of a new database, followed by ongoing routine data assimilation, management, and presentation in a manner that allows for access by interested users.

Currently each natural resource grant and loan agency has their own grant tracking system. An interagency database would be established that would also have a GIS component, to track a common set of attributes relating to all natural resource related grants, including the location of the restoration efforts. This would require a contractor to look at each agency tracking requirements and create an integrated interagency tracking system to be populated through routine export of these common attributes from each of the agency systems. The level of effort required will be based on the frequency of export/import needed in order to ensure the integrated system is kept consistent with the agency systems.

Duplication and overlap in grants and funding would be eliminated. Restoration sites would be easily identified with on a map with all attached funding sources as data. This would allow managers at a glance to see where funding is going geographically in our state.

5- How will this process work without adding an additional hurdle to the process?

This process will actually streamline the restoration process by:

- Putting together an interagency team to ensure the efficient allocation of state resources, identifying the potential for increased collaboration and reduced duplication, and evaluating program effectiveness.
- Identifying potential new funding sources, state, federal and private
- Compiling an integrated restoration plan for the State of Montana.

The model for this proposal is the successful coordination efforts that are currently ongoing with public infrastructure projects through the interagency WASACT (Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team) group. This group is comprised of professionals from state, federal, and non-profit organizations that finance, regulate, or provide technical assistance for community water and wastewater systems meet in order to coordinate and enhance their efforts. The group meets bi-monthly to discuss issues pertinent to common projects.

To date this group has adopted a common preliminary engineering report format, environmental checklist and application process and adopted the use of common uniform status of funds (grant tracking) and invoice tracking spreadsheets. Though each funding agency has its own supplemental application that addresses their own funding criteria, the "Uniform Application" has been an example of integrated government to other states.

The Natural Resource Grant Working Group began to meet about two years ago to discuss common issues among grant agencies. This group is comprised of state natural resource funding agencies. The goal has been to better integrate government services to constituents and to avoid duplicative efforts among agencies.

6- Please provide goals and measurable performance criteria.

This program's goals will be:

1. Establish an integrated approach to State restoration activities.
2. Develop integrated ecosystem-based planning to best view and implement agency restorative efforts.
3. Enhance cooperation, collaboration, and coordination among government, NGO, and stakeholders to encourage sharing of best restorative practices.
4. Create efficient allocations of available and potential resources to maximize and enhance the State's natural resources for the benefit of all Montanans.

5. Improve the exchange of restoration and ecological planning resources, activities, and information to the public, stakeholders, and others.
6. Increase public awareness that integrated restoration creates economic growth based on the coordinated renewal of Montana natural environment.

2) Funding Change

PL 2413 _ Dam Safety Engineer

This package was originally presented as an adjustment between state special revenue sources. However, this activity is funded in the department's base budget with General License Dollars. At the request of FWP, the authority is to be removed from DNRC's budget. FWP's budget contained the request for the authority for this position. This change is being made at the request of FWP.

2008	2009
(\$72,201)	(\$72,457)

3) Technical Adjustment

PL - Technical Budget Adjustment

In review of the Forestry Division's base budget, it was noted that \$218,637 in personal services did not roll into the base. This package is needed to restore the existing base of general fund dollars.